



Gettysburg
HISTORIC CROSSROADS

Borough of Gettysburg
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Theodore Streeter - Mayor
Robert Krummerich – Council President
Scot Pitzer – Council Vice President

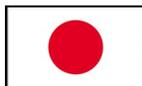
Charles R. Gable, *MPA* – Borough Manager
Sara L. Stull – Borough Secretary
Harold A. Eastman, Jr. – Borough Solicitor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wednesday, August 17, 2016
12:00 Noon



Seal of Gettysburg
Borough



Seal of Sekigahara,
Gifu Prefecture, Japan



Seal of the National
Park Service

Gettysburg and Sekigahara, Japan to become Sister Cities
Battlefields to become Sister Parks

The Gettysburg community will celebrate its new relationship with the Sekigahara Battlefields in Japan on September 5th. The public is invited to a special joint signing ceremony for the creation of a “Sister City” relationship between the Borough of Gettysburg and Sekigahara, Japan, and a “Sister Park” agreement between the Gettysburg National Military Park and the historic Sekigahara Battlefields. The 2 PM ceremony will take place at the historic Gettysburg Lincoln Railroad Station, 25 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg.

The Governor of Gifu Prefecture, Hajime Furuta and the Mayor of Sekigahara, Yasuyo Nishiwaki will be featured speakers at the ceremony along with Gettysburg Mayor Theodore Streeter, Gettysburg Railroad Historian Dr. William Aldrich, and Gettysburg National Military Park Superintendent Ed Clark. A reception with light refreshments will follow the ceremony.

Sekigahara is remembered as one of the biggest samurai battles in history, with 160,000 samurai fighting on, and around, a strategic mountain pass. In just six hours of close fighting, thousands of samurai were killed. The scene of the battle fought in 1600 is now preserved as a military park.



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The joint signing ceremony is the capstone of a multiday event at venues throughout the Gettysburg area. Also on September 5, At the Gettysburg National Military Park and Museum and Visitor Center, there will be free, special programs throughout the day: “Samurai Warriors & Civil War Soldiers”.

Park Rangers and staff from the Sekigahara Battlefields will offer the 45 minute program at 10, 11, 1, 2, 3, and 4 PM. Gettysburg Staff will talk about the Civil War soldier uniform and allow children to try it on. Sekigahara staff will have samurai uniforms for the public to try on. A poster display will outline the history of the Sekigahara battle. For more information call (717) 334-1124.

Additionally, there will be a special Sekigahara exhibit on display at the Gettysburg Heritage Center and Museum, located at 297 Steinwehr Avenue, Gettysburg. The free exhibit will showcase artifacts, including samurai uniforms and weapons. The Battle of Sekigahara, Japan is much like the Battle of Gettysburg. Japan had long been involved in a civil war, and in late 1600, it culminated in the decisive battle of Sekigahara. The country was split into the armies of the east and west. The outcome of the battle was 260 years of relative peace. Two separate countries, both engaged in civil wars, both with high numbers of casualties, but in the end, resulted in peace and preservation. The display will open to the public beginning Sunday, September 4th from 12 noon – 8 PM, and again Monday, September 5th from 9 AM – 6 PM. Visit www.GettysburgMuseum.com or call (717) 334-6245 for more information.

In 2015, the Borough of Gettysburg, Gettysburg National Military Park and Historic Sekigahara Battlefields began reciprocal cooperation regarding the conservation and future of the two historic battlefields. In March 2016, representatives of Waterloo in Belgium joined together with representatives from the Borough of Gettysburg and Gettysburg National Military Park for the “World Battlefields Summit” in Sekigahara to share the historical significance of three battlefields, and the value they hold for future generations. The summit resulted in, “World Battlefields Summit Joint Declaration”, and the decision to create Sister City and Sister Park relationships. We come together, as sister cities and sister parks to remember and honor our past, in hopes to learn and grow together in the future.

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